

# Turn pop bottles into planters in 5 easy steps

## You will need:

- 2 liter pop bottle
- Marker pen
- A box cutter and a scissor
- Soldering iron
- Goo Gone
- Batting material available in any craft store or Walmart
- Potting Mix (not potting soil)

**Always exercise caution when using tools. Please read the manual and always wear safety goggles.**



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## Step 1

Remove label. To do so, fill it up with hot water. Wait for 1-2 minutes. The glue will melt and peeling the bottle becomes easy. To remove the sticky glue from the bottle use goo gone available in any big box store.



## Step 2:

Measure 7" from the bottom and mark a line around the bottle. Using the box cutter carefully cut around the mark. You can also make a small cut with the box cutter and poke the scissor blade into the slit and carefully cut the bottle following the marked line.

**Note:** This method makes the planter tall but offers a bigger reservoir for water. You could make the base and top smaller. This allows you to place it in a container to make it look pretty.



## Step 3:

Now it is time to make aeration and drain holes using the soldering iron. Make a series of tiny holes, this will allow the roots to breathe better and the soil to drain out if there is too much water. Also burn a quarter inch hole in the lid of the pop bottle or use an electric drill to make the 1/4" hole.



# Creating a Sub-Irrigated Planter (SIP)

## Step 4:

It's time to assemble. Cut a 1" x 6" piece of batting material and insert it through the hole in the lid. Insert the rest of the batting material into the top of the pop bottle and screw the lid shut. Place this on the bottom half of the pop bottle.



## Step 5:

Pour some potting mix into the planter on top of the wick. Do not use potting soil. Soil does not work well in this setup. Fill to the top with potting mix.

You can either plant seeds or transplant small plants. Now fill the bottom of the container with water. Do not fill water from the top. It is not necessary.

## How it works:

The batting material acts like a wick and sucks water from the reservoir down to the potting mix on the top and keeps the roots watered. Excess water that gets up drains out through the aeration or drain holes. You can never under water or over water your plants. You can go away on holidays and not worry about watering the plants for at least a week.



Cabbage grown from a seed in a POP planter



Eggplant grown from a seed in a POP planter